

April 10, 2009

OBEY ANNOUNCES RECOVERY ACT FUNDS FOR WISCONSIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that Wisconsin will receive over \$12 million in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to help provide grants to local communities to support employment, food, housing, and healthcare efforts serving those hardest hit by the recession. As Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Obey was a lead author of President Obama's economic recovery plan.

“In good times, and especially in bad, the moral test of a government, as Vice-President Humphrey said years ago, is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick and the needy, and the handicapped,” Obey said. “The Community Services Block Grant Program is intended to help make sure we pass that test. It helps local community action groups help the most vulnerable in our communities.”

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a federal, anti-poverty block grant which funds the operations of a state-administered network of local agencies. This CSBG network consists of over 1,000 agencies that create, coordinate and deliver programs and services to low-income Americans throughout the nation.

Most agencies in the CSBG network are Community Action Agencies (CAAs), created through the Economic Opportunity Act, a predecessor of the CSBG. Grantees receiving funds under the CSBG program are required to provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health. Grant amounts are determined by a formula based on each State's and Indian Tribe's poverty population.

Community action agencies have seen dramatic increases in requests for their assistance due to rising unemployment, housing foreclosures, and high food and fuel prices. Recognizing that reality, the economic recovery act provided \$1 billion for CSBG grants to local communities to support employment, food, housing, and healthcare efforts serving those hardest hit by the recession.

More information on CSBG can be found at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/aboutus/factsheets.htm>

CSBG Service Providers in Wisconsin can be found at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/documents/caa/wi.html>

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